

KIDDERMINSTER
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND


SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1913.

Kidderminster :

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Kidderminster Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board, I beg to present my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1913.

By these Regulations it is incumbent upon the Medical Officer of Health, in addition to dealing with the vital statistics and infectious diseases, to give an account of the sanitary condition of the district during the year, with special reference to water supply, refuse disposal, drainage, housing accommodation, and other allied matters.

The elevation of the district as compared with the Borough of Kidderminster is conducive to the health of the people resident therein, and amenable to the best sanitary conditions. It has been my purpose to develop these natural advantages, and with the co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector, I am gratified to be able to report satisfactory progress. As will be seen by the classified tables, the cases of infectious disease have been considerably fewer than for some years past, there being 53 cases only of all kinds, as compared with 94 for 1912, and 102 for 1911. Only in one instance was it deemed advisable to send the patient to the Isolation Hospital, as compared with 32 in 1912, 53 in 1911, 42 in 1910, and 13 in 1909. All the remaining cases were treated at the homes of the patients. Your Council will appreciate the financial saving which this procedure has affected, as also the fact that it was successful in obviating any spread of infectious diseases owing to the personal attention I was able to give to the cases, and the personal vigilance which this course provided for your Sanitary Inspector.

Topography.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 78, which upon an estimated population of 7,200 shows a mortality rate of 10.83 per 1000. In calculating this mortality average, the deaths of non-residents occurring in public institutions is deducted, and the deaths of persons belonging to the district but occurring in other districts are added. This is a lower average than for many years past, the average for the years 1908 to 1912 inclusive being 12.

Births.

The total number of births registered in the district was 166, being a decrease of 26 compared with 1912 and 36 in 1911. But taking into account the reduced area of the district, which has been added to the Borough of Kidderminster, the percentage of births is higher by 3.85 per 1000 of the present population than in 1912.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths among children under one year of age was 12, giving an infantile mortality rate of 72.28, which is 14.99 higher than that recorded for 1912, but is 25.07 less than the average for the years 1911, 1910 and 1909. The infantile mortality rate is based upon the number of deaths of infants under one year of age to each 1000 births registered during the same year.

Infectious Diseases.**Scarlet Fever.**

Twenty-nine cases were notified in the district during the year. This is a considerable decrease in the number of cases notified in 1912, and most of these cases broke out during the heat of the summer, and were of a mild type, none proving fatal.

Enteric Fever.

One very mild case was notified. The case was diagnosed at the Queen's Head Hotel, Wolverley, the patient being a visitor, and as a number of other visitors were occupying rooms in the house, it was desirable that the patient should be immediately removed. He was accordingly conveyed to his home at Bromsgrove in charge of the District Nurse at Wolverley, and made good progress.

There were no cases of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, or Membranous Croup notified during the year.

Erysipelas.

Two cases only were notified, both occurring at Chaddesley Corbett.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case only was notified, which occurred at Cookley.

The district was peculiarly free from this disease, except for an outbreak at Cookley, which necessitated the closing of the Infants' Department of the Schools from June 5th to July 5th. All the cases were of a mild type.

Measles.

There have been 20 cases notified during the year, as compared with 32 for 1912. Of these 20 cases, eight were reported by the School Medical Officers. The action of your Council in providing means for Sanatoria benefit in certain cases, has been most beneficial in combating this scourge. All the houses from which these cases were notified were visited, and the premises examined. Sanitary defects were discovered and remedied in the houses in which the deaths from Phthisis occurred, of which there were five.

Phthisis.

These are diseases of the lungs other than Phthisis, and accounted for a large number of deaths during the year. Bronchitis, 2 ; Pneumonia, 3 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 5 ; Diseases ill-defined or unknown, 15 ; total, 25.

Respiratory Diseases.

Nine deaths were due to this disease, as against 8 in the preceding year.

Cancer.

The water supply of the district has frequently engaged the attention of your Council during the year. For the greater part it is derived from wells and springs, which are and have been under constant supervision, though a few of the houses in the more immediate vicinity of the Borough of Kidderminster obtain their supply from the borough mains.

Water.

Being suspicious of the danger of contamination of the water used for drinking purposes obtained from a spring at Oldington Cottages, owing to the close proximity of the spring to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, I instructed your Sanitary Inspector to obtain a sample from this spring for analytical purposes. The result of the analysis of the submitted sample showed my suspicions were well founded, the water being certified to be unfit for drinking purposes. On reporting this matter to your Council, your Clerk was instructed to communicate with the owners of the property, and intimate the necessity of providing a pure supply of water by connecting to the Corporation main, which was within easy distance. This suggestion was amicably and satisfactorily carried out.

Water
continued.

My attention was drawn to a case at Island Pool, Cookley, in which water for brewing purposes was obtained from the pool. I instructed your Sanitary Inspector to investigate this case and report. After consultation with your Chairman and Clerk, the matter was referred to the County Police, who obtained a sample of the water and the beer brewed therefrom, both of which were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst, who certified that "he saw no reason why the sample of water (as analysed) should not be used for brewing purposes."

Wribbenhall.

In conjunction with your Sanitary Inspector, I made an exhaustive survey of the water supply of Wribbenhall. Ten samples of water were taken from wells in this parish over a wide and scattered area. The result was not at all satisfactory, and it was evident that the contamination area was fairly general. Twenty houses in this parish were connected with the Bewdley mains, thereby substituting tap water instead of that previously obtained from wells. Nine polluted wells were closed in this parish, and three in others. Twenty-four wells were cleansed and repaired in this parish, and 32 in other parishes. Your Sanitary Inspector and myself prepared a joint report on the water supply of Wribbenhall for the consideration of your Council in May, and it is gratifying to report that our recommendations were approved by your Council, as also by the parishioners of Wribbenhall at a public meeting held on October 29th. Appended is a copy of the report submitted to your Council:—

No. of pump wells in the parish ..	...	...	132
No. of houses without drinking water on the premises			23
No. of houses provided with tap water	...	...	31
No. of houses per pump (average)	...	...	2·5
No. of wells from which samples of water have been taken for analysis	...	...	19
No. of samples certified to be unfit for drinking purposes			15
No. of samples certified to be fit	...	...	4

During the past two years 19 samples of water were taken for analysis, and the County Analyst reported that 15 were unfit for drinking purposes.

Most of the inhabitants of the parish derive their water exclusively from the wells, and these are, so far as our experience extends, almost always polluted by sewage and animal matters. The common practice in the largest portion of the parish is to dispose of the sewage and to provide for the water supply of each cottage or pair of cottages upon the same premises.

In the little yard or garden attached, two holes are dug in the porous soil. Into one of these, usually the shallower of the two, all the liquid waste of the house is discharged; from the other, which is sunk below the water line of the porous stratum, the water for drinking purposes is pumped. These two holes are not unfrequently within 12 feet of each other, and sometimes even closer. The contents of the cesspool gradually soak away through the surrounding soil and mingle with the water below.

Wribbenhall
(continued).

With drains and cesspools ramifying in every direction, it may be taken for granted that the wells are either polluted, or are, at all events, constantly liable to pollution, especially if we take the number of samples as above as a guide, and the shallowness of the existing wells.

We are strongly of the opinion that the parish is seriously in need of a wholesome water supply, and as it is of the greatest importance, we desire to impress upon you the urgency of the question. At the same time we feel that the question of a drainage scheme should not be lost sight of, as the existing system of dealing with the sewage is most unsatisfactory. With the excessive amount of rain of the past few months, a large number of the cesspools have been constantly overflowing, and we are of the opinion that if the taps are provided above the sinks, the amount of waste water from the houses will be necessarily increased, and this, added to the rain water which already goes into the cesspool, will make it impossible to prevent pollution of the surrounding soil, and will, therefore, be a constant source of worry and annoyance.

Though the water supply throughout the district is fairly satisfactory, it will probably require your attention for some time to come. As yet in various parishes there are many houses without any supply at all, and the general question of a pure, wholesome and sufficient supply of water cannot be considered finally settled until this shortage of supply is effectively remedied.

I received from your Sanitary Inspector reports of 14 houses in which he suspected overcrowding. In conjunction with him I visited each of these houses. In only two cases was there any difficulty in effectively dealing with the undesirable conditions discovered, both of which I instructed your Inspector to report to your Council. The one case occurred at Blakeshall Common, Wolverley, where a family of nine persons occupied a

Overcrowding

Overcrowding
(continued)

house containing two bedrooms and one living room ; six of the children slept in one bedroom, and the other was occupied by the father and the mother with another child. The other case occurred at Portway Place, Cookley, where a family of eleven persons occupied a house containing three small bedrooms and two living rooms. The ages of the children were from 18 years—the eldest, to eight months—the youngest, and I considered the conditions of life which I there observed were detrimental to the physical and moral well-being of the family. Statutory notices were served in each case, but while the former was remedied, the latter gave considerable trouble, owing to the difficulty in finding a house suitable to accommodate so large a family.

Housing
and Town
Planning Act.

During the year the housing conditions of the district have occupied a considerable amount of my attention. I thoroughly inspected and examined, in conjunction with your Sanitary Inspector, 133 houses, full reports of which were submitted at the monthly meetings of your Council. These reports not being very favourable in certain districts, a sub-committee was appointed for investigation with a view to negotiating means to effectively remove the defects reported. In those cases in which the recommendations and suggestions of the Committee, as advised by myself and your Inspector, were not complied with, closing orders were served and put into operation.

The districts visited included Wolverley, Wribbenhall, Rushock and Cookley, details of which you will find in the tables compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, which provides abundant evidence of the work accomplished under this Act. There can be no doubt that this work has been a contributing factor to the improved condition of the general health of the populace in the districts concerned.

The number of new houses erected during the year was three, while six are in course of erection, but as nineteen were condemned, twelve closed, five demolished and twelve back-to-back houses converted into through houses, there is a nett shortage of 39 habitable houses in the district as compared with the number last year.

Nuisances.

Drainage.—The drainage system of the district, taken on the whole, is fairly satisfactory, and as I deem it one of the most important parts of my duties, I have given it close attention. Smoke tests have been applied in a number of individual cases, resulting in the adoption of new and modern systems in all cases where that test was applied.

At Ribbesford House the whole of the drainage system was relaid with the best material obtainable, and the fittings to baths and lavatory wastes are now of the most desirable type.

At Spring Grove, Wribbenhall, the old system of drainage has been abolished, and a new system of cast iron pipes has been laid, in accordance with the bye-laws and regulations, the work being carried out under the supervision of your Surveyor. New water closets and bathrooms were provided according to plans submitted to and approved by your Council.

Woodfield House, Wolverley.—The drainage system at this house was subjected to a very severe smoke test, but the results obtained were most satisfactory, the drains and sanitary fittings being sound and watertight.

At Lowther's Yard, Whispering Street, Wribbenhall, where there are three lots of properties, comprising 16 houses, owned by three separate owners, the drainage constituted a nuisance and danger to health. The matter was referred to your Surveyor, who made a report thereon to the Buildings and Works Committee, which Committee instructed him to do what work was necessary to abate the nuisance. It has now been completely remodelled at your Council's expense, the work having been carried out under the supervision of your Surveyor.

Hill House, Cookley.—The drainage at this property has been relaid with new material, and is now highly satisfactory.

Clee Hall, Cookley.—A thorough examination of the drainage system at this property brought to light a number of defects of a very serious nature. These have now been remedied.

The Beehive, Cookley.—This property consists of six houses owned by one person, while adjoining there is another house owned by a separate owner. Between these two properties there has been laid a drain to take the whole of the surface water from the back premises into the road channel. The old drain was defective and choked, which caused the water to lodge between the two gable ends and thereby creating a great deal of dampness in the walls on either side. The owners were approached by your Inspector, and his suggestions for remedying those conditions were satisfactorily carried out.

Nuisances
(continued).

Tanwood Farm, Bluntington, Chaddesley Corbett.—On visiting this property in May, in conjunction with your Inspector, I discovered a number of nuisances, including the insanitary and defective state of the drains. The drains from the house are carried through the meadow in front and cross underneath the road and are then continued to a distance of about 150 yards, discharging their contents into a ditch. The portion crossing the road was broken and choked, causing the liquid to ooze through the soil and damaged the road to a considerable extent. The Surveyor and your Inspector made a special report to your Council dealing with these conditions, and the former was instructed to call upon the owner to remedy the defects, which were satisfactorily complied with.

Refuse Tip.

The Foxholes, Franche.—I received a notification from the Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council, through your Sanitary Inspector, of a nuisance that arose from the tipping of refuse on a field within 20 feet of a cottage that was occupied. I visited the place, and found the nuisance consisted of garden refuse in a state of decomposition, buckets, sacking, wall-paper, night-soil and other objectionable matter. I instructed your Sanitary Inspector to bring the matter before your Council, and an undertaking was eventually given that the nuisance should be abated. The whole of the rubbish was removed from this field and deposited far away from any habitable dwelling.

Cookley.—A quantity of rubbish, including night-soil, was discovered deposited on land adjoining the highway, near Caunsall, which was most offensive and objectionable. Your Sanitary Inspector reported this matter to your Council, and a notice board has been erected warning against a repetition of the offence.

Rag Sorting.

Complaints having been received from the Wolverley Parish Council concerning what appeared to be an habitual practice of marine-store men of rag-sorting on the roadsides and wainhouses in the parish. Representations were made to the marine store dealers in the town that the nuisance must be abated. Your Inspector received satisfactory assurances that this practice should cease.

**Tipping of Road
Scrapings, etc.**

Severn Terrace, Wribbenhall.—During the year the matter of depositing road-scrapings and other refuse by the County Council employees was reported to you by your Sanitary Inspector. The position in which the refuse, etc., was tipped was on land adjoining the high-

way. This was overlooked by occupiers and visitors using the front rooms of houses opposite, the sight being most objectionable to them as also to the passers by. Your Council ordered the service of a notice on the County Road Surveyor to abate the nuisance, which was eventually complied with, the practice of depositing such refuse thereon being discontinued.

Tippings, etc.

Chaddesley Corbett.—A quantity of nightsoil was discovered on the highway at Chaddesley village. The privy-midden at the Talbot Hotel had been emptied during the night, the contents being removed by farm workmen on to a field a good distance off. The men had overloaded the cowl, with the result that a large quantity was spilt on the road between the village and Bluntings, the sight being most objectionable and unpleasant. The attention of the farmer, who had undertaken the removal of the nightsoil, was drawn to this state of affairs, and immediate steps were taken by which the whole of the nuisance was removed.

A number of nuisances due to the keeping of animals in a dirty condition and in unsuitable places, have been reported to me, and on referring these to the Inspector to investigate and report, it was found that the animals were kept in the proximity of dwellings, and were a source of annoyance, as very little care was exercised by the owners in providing properly constructed stables, piggeries, etc., furnished with efficient drains (the surfaces of which are paved with impervious material), and, what is equally essential, a daily removal of offensive matter, and a thorough and frequent cleansing of the premises. At Wribbenhall, where piggeries were close to the dwelling, and the buildings were improperly drained and cleaned, the owner was prohibited from the keeping of pigs altogether.

Keeping of Animals.

There were also, at Wribbenhall and Cookley, persons who were called upon to discontinue the keeping of poultry and pigeons on the premises, as they were kept in such a place and manner as to be a nuisance.

Great assistance is afforded to local authorities in dealing with such offences, by property owners or their agents insisting that it shall be a condition of the tenancy not to keep animals on the premises, but especially is this so as regards the keeping of poultry and pigeons.

Schools.

No important questions have arisen in connection with the Elementary Schools. In several instances it has been found necessary to close the schools owing to the prevalence of Infectious Disease, chiefly Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Chicken Pox. The following is a list of the schools in question :—

Upper Arley	...Jan. 22nd	...Mumps	...3 weeks
Cookley (Infants)	...June 5th	...Measles	...4 weeks
Churchill C.E.	...July 22nd	...Scarlet Fever	2 weeks
Rushock C.E.	...Nov. 22nd	...Chicken Pox	5 weeks

These schools were thoroughly disinfected during the time of closure by Formalin spraying.

The Inspector exercised a general supervision over the sanitary conditions and appliances of the schools, and in one particular instance (Wolverley Grammar Schools) he was requested to investigate and report on lavatories, closets, etc., with the result that the drainage system was completely re-modelled, the pan closets (of which there were 12) converted into water closets, and the urinals reconstructed, the internal fittings consisting of Doulton's best glazed earthenware material.

The sewage from these schools is now received into a large brick tank and filter (instead of the Stour) and irrigated over the land.

**River
Pollution.**

A number of inspections were made of the conditions of the various streams in the district, more especially during the summer months. One sample of water was taken in regard to river pollution, and that was from a stream at the Foxholes, Franche, the water from which was being used for drinking purposes. The tipping of refuse on the bank of this stream caused the rubbish to roll into it, but the nuisance was abated, as the whole of the rubbish was removed and satisfactorily dealt with. The sample submitted to the County Analyst was certified to be fit for drinking purposes.

Stream pollution occurred at Wolverley, where the sewage from the Grammar Schools discharged into the Stour in its crude state, but this condition has now been remedied. During the year a new system of drainage has been laid, with a new filter constructed to receive the sewage therefrom. The effluent, which has been examined on many occasions, has been found very satisfactory.

**Disease of
Animals Acts,
etc.**

No case of Anthrax has been reported during the year.

There are seven slaughter-houses on the register. During the year 105 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and five notices were issued to abate nuisances. The statutory provisions as to white-liming four times a year were carried out in all cases.

Diseases of
Animals Act
and Slaughter
Houses.

The slaughter-houses were visited regularly for purposes of meat inspection, which inspections were carried out by your Inspector, who holds the Certificate of Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

No meat has been found affected with tuberculosis or any other disease. All food and fish shops have also been regularly inspected.

There is only one offensive trade carried on in the district, namely, that of a knacker. The knacker's yard is in an isolated position, away from houses, and the building was erected four years ago in accordance with plans submitted to the Council. The business is conducted without offence. The place has been visited regularly during the year.

The arrangements for scavenging at Wribbenhall have been much more thoroughly carried out during the past year, and very few complaints have consequently been received. The refuse from each house is removed once a week, and is disposed of by tipping on the bank of the Severn. There have been no complaints as to any nuisance arising from this source. The night-soil and sewage is taken to a field in Habberley Road, far removed from habitable dwellings, and deposited on to a plot of ground 15 acres in extent, where the sewage is disposed of by broad irrigation. The removal of the night-soil, dry-ashpit refuse, etc., is carried out under the direct supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, whose constant attention is exercised in keeping the work up to the proper standard.

Scavenging.

Fourteen additional ashpits have been provided, 30 reconstructed, and 95 repaired and ventilated, while no less than 136 were cleansed and limewashed. During the year 5 new water closets were provided, 70 repaired, etc., and 18 supplied with flushing apparatus. Thirty-four privy pans were provided, 21 privies converted into water closets, and 32 converted to pail closets.

Apart from the Parish of Wribbenhall, the inhabitants dispose of the excrement and refuse on their gardens or allotments.

**Dairies,
Cowsheds, and
Milkshops.**

The farms, dairies and milkshops in the district have been visited and systematically inspected as often as practicable, and structural improvements effected in some cases. Special efforts were made to bring the farms and farm dairies up to modern standards, and considerable outlay has been expended on improved flooring, ventilation, etc., in some instances. One new cowshed to house 10 cows was erected at Hoo Farm, plans of which were submitted to and approved by your Council.

The milk supply has been good, and sufficient in quantity. There has been no indication of adulteration or contamination, nor of tuberculous infection.

As is well known, the "Tuberculosis Order, 1913," issued by the Board of Agriculture, came into operation on May 1st, 1913. The object of the Order is to secure the destruction of every cow suffering from tuberculosis with emaciation, that is, animals which are so affected with tuberculosis that they are a danger to the public on account of the contaminated milk which they give; also those which are a danger to other animals with which they are in contact on account of their being in such a state of the disease that they give off the tubercle bacilli from their diseased organs. A Royal Commission in this country, and scientific investigation at home and abroad, have shown that tubercular milk is a grave danger to those who drink it. There is also, no doubt, that our stock-owners and dairymen suffer great losses through the disease. One, therefore, cannot but think that the Order should prove of considerable value to both the general public and the stock-owner if it is well carried out. The public will be protected from injurious milk and a considerable quantity of diseased meat, because previous to the Order coming into operation, a large number of tubercular cattle were sold for human consumption. This Order should put an end to this, because the owner will be paid compensation for the animals destroyed, which are a danger to the other stock and for which previously he has only got a very small price. The order makes provision for a Veterinary Inspector to have the animal removed from the market to suitable premises where it can be examined. I am informed that a number of animals have been slaughtered under the Order, as having been found in this district to be suffering from tuberculosis.

These Acts are administered by the County Medical Officer, to whom all notifications are sent. There are no health visitors in the district.

Midwives' Acts,
1902, and
Notification of
Births Act, 1907

Since the administration of the Midwives Act, 1902, was begun, Dr. G. H. Fosbroke and his staff have carried out the necessary supervision on behalf of the Worcestershire County Council, which continues to be the supervising authority for the whole of the administrative County of Worcester.

We have no common lodging houses, etc., in the district.

Common
Lodging Houses
and Houses let
in Lodgings.

The workshops in your district are small, no large works being in existence. There have been five additions to the register making a total of 118. Most of them have been visited, and upon the whole found in a good condition.

Factories and
Workshops.

Complaints were received from the Factory Inspector in regard to the closet accommodation at Hurcott Paper Mills, and it at once received the attention of your Sanitary Inspector, who reported to your Council the abatement of the nuisance.

Apart from bakehouses, 244 visits of inspection were made, and 24 notices were served to abate nuisances.

We have no out-workers in the district.

Out-Workers.

One hundred and fifty-six visits of inspection were made during the year. The general condition may be said to be very good, and the statutory provisions as to the cleansing were carried out.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council and my fellow officials for their unfailing courtesy and assistance during the year.

Your obedient servant,

BERTRAM ADDENBROOKE, M.D., B.Hy.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett,		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate,					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births registered.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	10100	242	242	22.27	127	12.5	2	16	19	78.1	141	13.9
1909	10100	213	213	23.96	135	13.36	4	19	23	108.9	150	14.8
1910	10100	202	202	21.1	108	10.7	1	21	19	94.05	128	12.57
1911	10500	202	202	20.	119	11.4	5	16	18	89.1	130	12.4
1912	10500	193	192	19.2	124	11.8	8	16	11	57.29	132	12.3
1913	7200	162	166	23.05	66	9.16	—	12	12	72.28	78	10.83

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 31,565.
Total population at all ages at Census of 1911, 10,495; Number of inhabited houses, 2,488; Average number of persons per house, 4.21.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Kidderminster Union Workhouse, Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Chaddesley Corbett.	Churchill.	Dowles	Kidderminster Foreign.	Rushock,	Stone	Wolverley.	Wribbenhall.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65										65 and up'wds
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	10	7	2	..	1
Scarlet Fever	29	2	5	20	2	..	..	..	6	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polioomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	..	1	11	4	1	1	..	..	1	1	2	4	4	3	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	53	3	6	31	6	4	2	1	6	1	3	3	14	13	5	..	1

H.—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital, Stourport Road, Kidderminster. Total available beds 80 (60 under ordinary circumstances). Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated 2.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.		
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All causes {	Certified	78	12	1	1	1	2	13	16	32	..	
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Influenza	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	5	..
Cancer, Malignant disease	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	3	5	..
Organic Heart Disease	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Bronchitis	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation,including Premature Birth	..	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	13	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	13	..

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1913.
 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.					3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.							
All Causes. { Certified 12. { Uncertified 0.	5	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	1	3	1	12
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Enteritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Injury at Birth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Laryngitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Causes	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL	5	..	..	6	1	..	6	1	1	3	1	12

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 161; illegitimate, 5.
 Nett Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 10; illegitimate infants, 2.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK- PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1-INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	52	4	None
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	142	12	„
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	77	10	„
TOTAL	271	26	None

2-DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS.
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	24	24	..	..
Want of Ventilation	4	4	..	..
Want of Drainage of Floors	5	5	..	..
Other Nuisances	43	43	..	..
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective	2	..	..
	not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	3	3	..	..
TOTAL	81	81	None	None

3-HOME WORK.

No cases of homeworkers have come under notice, and no list of outworkers has been sent in from any employers in the district.

4-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year: Bakers, 14; Blacksmiths, 16; Boot and Shoe Makers, 10; Boat Builders, 1; Builders, 6; Cabinet Makers, 3; Carpenters, 9; Coal Merchants, 4; Coffin Makers, 2; Confectioners, 1; Cycle Makers, 2; Dressmakers, 14; Jewellers, 2; Joiners, 3; Milliners, 5; Painters, 3; Plumbers, 4; Photographers, 2; Saddlers, 1; Stone Masons, 3; Tailors and Drapers, 3; Wheelwrights, 4; Laundries, 6—
Total, 118.

5-OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, 0; Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act—Notified by H.M. Inspector 3, Reports (of action taken) sent to H. M. Inspector 3.

No underground bakehouses.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

KIDDERMINSTER,

JANUARY, 1914.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Fifth Annual Report of the sanitary and other work carried out in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

I desire to thank you for the courtesy which has been shown to me and for the attention you have paid to my requirements during the year.

I also beg to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness received from my fellow officials.

NUISANCES.

The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon during the year amounted to 2996, of which 2907 have been remedied, leaving 89 remaining on the books at the end of the year.

The 84 nuisances mentioned in the last annual report as remaining on the books at the end of 1912 were abated in the early part of the year.

NOTICES FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

During the year 110 written notices were served for the abatement of nuisances; of these 97 were preliminary and 13 statutory notices. These preliminary notices are served forthwith on the discovery of a nuisance without waiting for a meeting of the Council, whose authority is necessary before any legal proceedings

can be taken for the abatement of nuisances. As will be seen, generally the service of these notices have the desired effect, but where they fail the nuisances are reported at your monthly meetings and the necessary authority obtained for statutory notices to be served and magisterial proceedings to be taken to enforce compliance with same in default.

COMPLAINTS.

The complaints register shows that 33 complaints of various matters were received during the year, as compared with 38 in 1912. All these were investigated, and action taken where required. Of these 33 complaints, 6 were made verbally at this office, 22 were written and properly authenticated, and 5 were anonymous communications.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION (HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909).

In accordance with the requirements of the above Act and Regulations, sub-section 1 of section 17, a systematic inspection of dwelling-houses has been carried out, the number of houses examined during the year being 133.

The districts inspected were Wribbenhall, Wolverley, Cookley, and Rushock, the work being done jointly with the Medical Officer of Health.

Two hundred and twenty eight inspections have been made for the supervision of works in progress, relaying of drains and sanitary fittings, etc., to further the abatement of nuisances; 214 consultations have taken place with builders, owners, agents, etc., concerning work required to be done to abate nuisances, and 53 calls or visits respecting complaints.

A large number of houses inspected have had repairs carried out, such as drainage, defective roofs, eaves-gutters, and rain-water spouts, privies and ashpits, defective flooring, plastering, paving, staircases, light and ventilation to pantries and bedrooms, etc.

There have been 3 new houses erected during the year, and 6 are in course of erection; 133 houses inspected, 19 condemned, 12 closed, and 5 demolished; 4 houses were closed by mutual agreement with the owners.

The following houses were reported to you during the year, and most of them were subsequently visited by the Housing Committee of your Council:—

HOUSES AND LOCALITIES	ACTION TAKEN AND RESULT
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Whispering Street, Wribbenhall	The eight houses are to be converted into four "through" houses, six are now closed. Increased closet and wash-house accommodation to be provided.
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Whispering Street, Wribbenhall	The six houses have been made fit. Closet and wash-house accommodation to be increased, which work will be put in hand at an early date.
1,2,3, Severn Terrace ,, Bungalow, Severn Terrace, Wribbenhall	Houses are now being put in repair. Demolished. The lighting and air space at back of above three houses is thereby increased.
1, 2, Baile's Corner, Wribbenhall	Two old houses pulled down to ground level, and two new houses are now being erected.
Black and White House, Severn Terrace, Wribbenhall	Closed by agreement with the owner. This house is to form part of the adjoining building.
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Severn Terrace, Wribbenhall	Inspector met owner on premises. The houses are to be put into a thorough state of repair. Four new water closets and one new wash-house to be put up in addition to existing out-buildings, for which plans are being prepared.
1, 2, 3, Pewter's Alley, Wribbenhall	These three are to be converted into two houses. One new w.c. and wash-house to be put up.
1, 2, Southan's Buildings, Wribbenhall	Houses have been put into a thorough state of repair.
1,2,Rock Cottages,Wolverley	Closing order served. Both permanently closed.
1, 2, 3, 4, Wolverley Cottages, The Village, Wolverley	Closing order served. These four (which are back-to-back) are to be converted into two "through" houses.
1, 2, 3, Rath's Cottages, Portway Place, Cookley	Houses have been put into a thorough state of repair.
1, 2, 3, Barker's Cottages, Portway Place, Cookley	Closing order served. These are to be converted into two houses. Plans have already been passed by Council.
Lloyd's Cottage, Portway Place, Cookley	Closing order served. House to be demolished.
1, 2, Roberts's Cottages, Portway Place, Cookley	Closing order served. These two are to be converted into one house.
1,2,3,4,5,6,Inston's Buildings, Portway Place, Cookley	Inspector met the owner, and arrangements have been made by which the six houses will be converted into three, thereby providing to each house three bedrooms, two living rooms and scullery

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

Fifty-three cases of Infectious Disease were reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, compared with 94 for the year 1912.

These consisted of 29 cases of Scarlet Fever, compared with 44 for 1912, 1 Typhoid, 2 Erysipelas, 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and 20 of Pulmonary Phthisis. Of the 20 cases of Phthisis notified, 8 were reported by the School Medical Officers as a result of their examination of children attending the schools in the district. There was but one private case reported.

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Borough Infectious Disease Hospital, compared with 32 removed in 1912, 53 in 1911, 42 in 1910, and 13 in the year 1909.

The houses in which the cases occurred were visited, and as the patients (in 28 cases out of the 29 reported) suffering from Scarlet Fever were not removed, but were treated at their own homes, it was necessary to give detailed instructions as to the isolation and the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of the disease. Frequent visits were paid (not less than once a week) in order to ensure that our instructions were being carried out.

Disinfectants were supplied in every case. No children from infected houses were permitted to attend school, and all cases were reported to the Head Teachers forthwith. After recovery of the patients, the infected bedding, clothing, etc., were disinfected on the premises, and the rooms fumigated. Several lots of bedding, etc., were sent to the Borough Hospital to be disinfected by means of the Thresh Steam Disinfector.

After disinfection had been carried out, the school authorities were again notified, informing them when the children could resume attendance at school.

The houses where deaths from Phthisis or Consumption occurred were visited, and disinfection of the premises and of the clothing was carried out. In addition, full enquiries were made as to possible infection, length of illness, predisposing causes, etc.

Following on cases of infectious diseases, the drains and sanitary fittings of the houses were inspected, and, where necessary, tested, defects being revealed in many cases. In those cases where defects were found, the necessary alterations or repairs were carried out, after which the drains were re-tested, and in all cases found to be satisfactory.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed and disinfected on account of infectious disease existing among the scholars :—

School.	Disease.	Closed		Disinfected.
		From.	To.	
Upper Arley ...	Mumps ...	Jan. 22nd	Feb. 12th	Feb. 9th
Cookley (Infants) ...	Measles ...	June 5th	June 14th	June 12th
"	"	June 21st	July 5th	July 2nd
Churchill (Church of England) ...	Scarlet Fever	July 22nd	August 2nd	July 31st
Rushock (Church of England) ...	Chicken Pox	Nov. 22nd	Dec. 13th	Dec. 9th
" "	" "	Dec. 13th	Dec. 27th	Dec. 23rd

The Schools mentioned were visited on several occasions before closure, and the effect of the outbreak noted on each visit. No less than 82 visits have been made to the schools during the year, and a number of sanitary improvements have been carried out in several of them.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

Two hundred and one visits of inspection were made to the above during the past twelve months. Thirteen more cow-keepers and milk-sellers have been added to the register during the year, making up the total of 133.

At your meeting in December, I found it necessary to report a person (trading as a cow-keeper and purveyor of milk in the Parish of Rushock), who declined to register himself with the local authority as required by the above Order. Your Clerk was instructed to write to the person concerned requesting him to register himself forthwith, failing which, proceedings would be taken against him, and this request was immediately complied with.

The cleansing and limewashing of the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops have been carried out in accordance with the regulations.

No. of Cowkeepers on Register ...	...	...	88
No. of Purveyors of Milk on Register ...	...	...	32
No. of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of Milk registered during the year ...	...	...	13
Total ...	...	...	133

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1878—1894.

No cases of Anthrax or any disease under the above Acts have occurred in the district during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of registered or licensed slaughter-houses in the district remains the same as at the end of 1912, i.e., 7. During the year 105 visits were made to the different premises.

Verbal notices at the time of inspection have been sufficient to get remedied the few nuisances that were found, but the conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

No meat was discovered that was unfit for human food, and I am quite of opinion that our meat supply is generally of good quality. We have the advantage of the careful inspection in the town of a large quantity of meat consumed in the district.

Your Council granted the renewal of the license for horse slaughtering at Oldington Wood. The premises were regularly visited, and on each occasion found in a very satisfactory state.

UN SOUND FOOD.

Close attention has been given to this branch of the work during the year. 136 visits of inspection were made to the various butchers', fishmongers', fruiterers', etc., shops, but in no case has it been found necessary to take proceedings.

BAKEHOUSES.

In all 156 visits have been made to bakehouses and confectioners' shops. They were found in a good sanitary condition, consequently requiring very little attention. Any limewashing and cleansing of floors, etc., that was suggested, was always done promptly.

No underground bakehouses exist in the district.

OVERCROWDING.

Reports of 14 houses which appeared to be overcrowded were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, and in nine cases notices were served to reduce the number of inmates, every notice was complied with at the end of the year. The other five cases were abated upon receipt of notice, verbal notice being given to the occupiers on the day on which the inspection was made.

Two cases of overcrowding were reported to your Council during the year, one at Blakeshall Common and the other at Portway Place, Cookley.

In the first case the house contained two bedrooms and one living room to accommodate a family of nine persons, there being seven children (six of whom slept in the same bedroom) and the father and mother. The second case was one where a family of eleven persons, nine children (four of whom were classed as adults) and father and mother, occupied three small bedrooms. Great difficulty was experienced in dealing with this case. These people lived under conditions which were most degrading and improper from a moral as well as a health standpoint.

The Council decided to serve notices on the occupiers, which were eventually complied with.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is mainly derived from wells. During the year 21 samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, 13 of which were certified to be unfit for drinking purposes. Of the 13 certified unfit, 10 were taken from wells in the Parish of Wribbenhall. These samples were taken from wells covering a wide and scattered area, so that it can be taken for granted that the contamination area is fairly general.

Twenty houses in the Wribbenhall Parish have been connected with the Bewdley water mains. Your Medical Officer of Health and myself made a joint report on the water supply in this Parish, which report was presented to you in May. Subsequently a meeting of the Parish Council was held at which the report was discussed. It is unnecessary to refer to the question further on this occasion except to say that, by your direction, Mr. Fiddian, Engineer, is now preparing a scheme for supplying Wribbenhall with water from the Bewdley supply, and should you be successful in obtaining the supply from Bewdley, doubtless a loan will be applied for without delay.

There were 56 wells cleansed and repaired, 12 polluted wells were closed, and 10 new wells sunk.

No outbreak of infectious disease has been traced to water in the district.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

Scavenging powers are in operation in one Parish only, viz. : Wribbenhall. The removal of refuse has been much improved. The contractor has carried out the work in a very satisfactory manner. There have been a good many conversions of old privy-middens to pail closets and water closets. The owners of house property are more and more seeing the advantage of using the galvanized iron bins for house refuse. Where these are provided the refuse is removed weekly by carts, the ashpits being cleared once a month.

Special attention has been given to the cleansing of cesspools, etc., and there have been very few complaints received during the year.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There have been 52 visits paid to the factories in the district, special regard being paid to the question of closet accommodation.

The work done in connection with the factories and workshops is better set out in tabular form. The official tables are used for this purpose, and the particulars are compiled by the Medical Officer of Health.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

A total of 192 visits have been made to these places, and a number of structural alterations connected with ventilation, cleansing and limewashing, drainage, effluvia, etc., carried out.

No legal proceedings have been requisite further than the service of an occasional notice.

Five more workshops have been added to the register, and the following is a list of the workshops now in the district :—

Bakers	14	Joiners	3
Blacksmiths	16	Laundries	6
Boot and Shoe Makers...	10	Milliners	5
Boat Builders	1	Painters	3
Builders	6	Plumbers	4
Cabinet Makers	3	Photographers	2
Carpenters	9	Saddlers	1
Coal Merchants	4	Stonemasons	3
Coffin Makers	2	Tailors and Drapers ...	3
Confectioners	1	Wheelwrights	4
Cycle Makers	2		
Dressmakers	14	Total	118
Jewellers	2		

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of out-workers from any employers in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

During the past year 50 visits were paid to the wharves, etc., to examine boats while passing along canals in this district. 214 boats were examined, and contraventions were found in 25 cases, particulars of which will be found below :—

Boats Inspected	214
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations	25
Persons for which the Cabins were registered	618
Persons occupying the Cabins	513
Men on the Boats	478
Women on the Boats	21
Children on the Boats (between the ages of 5 and 12)...	9
Children on the Boats (under 5 years of age)	5

Details of contraventions :

Not carrying Certificate of Registration	3
Boats not properly marked	2
Boats overcrowded	3
Dirty Cabins	11
Painting requiring renewal	2
Want of proper vessels for drinking water	4
Total	25

During the months of June and July a number of visits were made to the Canal side, but there were very few boats met with on account of the strike which was then on in the Black Country, and which affected the running of the boats to a considerable extent.

No case of infectious disease has been met with upon any of the boats, nor has any such case been notified as occurring amongst

the occupants. The cabins of the boats plying in this district were found to be kept in a much more satisfactory condition than has been the case for some time past, there being this year only 11 complaints compared with 17 for the year 1912. At the end of the year all contraventions had been remedied, and our requirements complied with.

H.M. Inspector of Canal Boats (O. J. Llewellyn, Esq.) paid his annual visit on May 22nd, and examined the registers submitted for his inspection.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Two new licenses were granted during the year for the storage of petroleum under the above Acts. There are now 14 persons in the district licensed to sell or store petroleum, petrol (or motor spirit), benzoline, carbide of calcium, etc. Periodical visits have been paid to the different premises during the year, but no infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered, and your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts have been duly carried out.

Infectious Disease :

Cases enquired into	...	...	...	53
Visits made thereto	...	...	...	216
Patients removed to Hospital		...	..	1
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	83
Visits made to Schools	...	...	...	82
Articles of clothing disinfected	...	...	...	349
Articles destroyed	...	...	...	75

Houses :	Inspected (house-to-house)	...	...	...	133
	Inspected on Complaint	...	...	...	33
	Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	...	152
	Repaired	...	...	...	103
	Defective yards paved	...	..	...	101
	Houses closed	...	...	...	12

Sinks :	Number of quarry sinks abolished	...	...	65
	Number of glazed earthenware sinks provided	94

Courts and Terraces :

Visits made thereto	149
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Works in Progress :

Visits made thereto	228
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Overcrowding :

Cases abated	14
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House Drains :

Tested with smoke, or chemicals, or both	125
Found defective	54
Laid or Re-laid	...	...	...	91
Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...	133
Defective wastes rectified	...	...	...	41
Insanitary lavatories, urinals, etc., rectified	...	...	...	45
Dumbwells constructed	...	...	...	40
Dumbwells rectified	...	...	...	72

Water Closets :

Additional provided	...	...	...	5
Repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	...	...	70
Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	126
Supplied with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	18

Privies and Ashpits :				
Additional provided	...	...	...	14
Repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	...	...	95
Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	136
Reconstructed	...	...	...	30
Privy pans provided	...	...	...	34
Converted to water closets	...	...	...	21
Converted to pail closets	...	...	...	32
Dustbins (Portable) :				
New provided	...	...	...	67
Water Supply :				
Samples taken	...	...	...	21
Wells closed as polluted	...	...	...	12
New wells sunk	...	...	...	10
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	41
Houses supplied from waterworks	...	...	...	20
Slaughter-houses :				
Inspections made	...	...	...	105
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	37
Bakehouses :				
Inspections made	...	...	...	156
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	61
Workshops :				
On register	...	...	...	118
Inspections made	...	...	...	192
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	81
Insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances	...	...	...	26
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :				
Registered	...	...	...	13
Inspections made	...	...	...	201
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	74
Canal Boats :				
Inspections made	...	...	...	50
Boats inspected	...	...	...	214
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	25
Nuisances from Keeping of Animals :				
Number abated	...	...	...	58
Accumulation of Offensive Refuse :				
Number removed	...	...	...	159
Food and Fish Shops :				
Number inspected	...	...	...	136
Meetings of Owners and Agents :				
Re work to be done	...	...	...	214
Movable Dwellings, Caravans, etc. :				
Number observed	...	...	...	11
Dealt with as insanitary	...	...	...	3
Removed	...	...	...	4
Clerical Work :				
Letters written	...	...	...	755
Notices served	...	...	...	110
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	13
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	13

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL LLEWELLYN.